(c) what was the nature of discussions held and what recocmendations were made to Government?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The names of 84 persons who participated in the seminar are given in the attached Statement. [*See* Appendix CXLVII, Annexure No 71].

(c) A seminar on the problems and prospects of handicrafts was organised on 27th May, 1988 in New Delhi by the Export Promotion Council for Handicrafts, an autonomous body set up under the aegis of the Ministry of Textiles. The problems faced by the Indian Handicrafts exporters were discussed during the seminar. The main emphasis was on the need for developing an export culture by the Government Agencies connected with the export of handicrafts. Keeping in view the competition being faced in the overseas markets, providing a better market intelligence and design guidance by the Export Promotion Council, was demanded.

Some of the vital recommendations during the seminar were as follows:—

(i) Participation in trade fairs/exhibitions abroad by new entrepreneurs in this sector be encouraged.

(ii) Availability of accurate Market Intelligence under the aegis of the Export Promotion Council.

(iii) Subscription to good magazines/journals.

(iv) A booklet be issued by the Office of the Chief Controller of Imports and Exports containing the salient guidelines providing to craft exports.

(v) Clarification be issued with regard to General Notes under Col. 5 against product Group 'H'-Appendix-17 for the definition of handicrafts.

(vi) The old scheme for despatch of free samples by the exporters to the foreign buyers be restored.

(vii) Simplification of the procedure for the export of Ivory products and the handicrafts of Silver.

(viii) Re-introduction of Export House Scheme under the consortia of SSI units.

(ix) Deemed exports which include sales to the foreign tourists and others be considered as a condition to become eligible for the Export House Certificates and other benefits.

(x) Expeditious clearance of the applications pending in the Offices of the Joint Chief Controller of Imports & Exports.

(xi) Description of the items classified under Sub. Sl. No. 3804 to include handicrafts of brass in addition to brass artwares.

(xii) Acceptance of any amount of convertible foreign currency be allowed against the sale of the merchandise to the foreign tourists.

**Export of South Indian Tea**

1716. SHRI HARI SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government have recently finalised a scheme to raise the export of South Indian Tea; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSHI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The main features of this scheme are as under:—

(1) Monetary incentives on incremental exports above the prescribed base level will be provided as per the following rates depending on the country of exports:

| Country | Base level (M. Kgs.) | Incentive @ Rs. 1/- per kg. (M. kgs.) | *Incentive @ Rs. 1.50 per kg. (M. Kgs.) |
|---|---|---|---|
| USSR | 30 | 30–40 | 40 and above. |
| ARE | 3 | 3–10 | 10 and above. |
| Iraq | 3 | 3–10 | 10 and above. |
| USA | 2 | .. | 2 and above. |
| UK | 1.3 | .. | 1.3 and above. |
| Australia | 0.1 | .. | 0.1 and above. |
| Syria | 0.1 | .. | 0.1 and above. |
| Jordan | 0.1 | .. | 0.1 and above. |

*These incentives rates however could be reviewed considering the trend of international prices.

(2) The promotional incentive is directly related to increased export turnover and therefore, in case the exports do not register an increase above the base volume there will be no outgo of the incentive component.

(3) The scheme will be implemented by the Tea Board of India as per guidelines framed by the Board.

(4) The scheme would be in operation only during the financial year 1988-89 (July-1988 to March- 1989).

**Insurgency in North East**

1717. SHRI NARAYAN KAR: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what steps have been taken to deal firmly with the insurgency and other forms of terrorist activities in the North-Eastern States particularly in Assam, Manipur and in Tripura;

(b) whether these terrosists are operating from foreign countries; if so, what are the names of those countries; and

(c) whether this issue was taken up bilaterally with the Government of those countries; if so, what are the results thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Meitei organisations *viz.* People's Liberation Army, People's Revolutionary Party of Kangleipak etc., in Manipur and Tripura National Volunteers in Tripura have been declared as 'unlawful associations' under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act 1967. The entire States of Manipur and Tripura have been declared as 'disturbed area'. In addition, a 5-km. belt along the Indo-Burma border in Nagaland and Tirap District of Arunachal Pradesh has also been declared as disturbed area. The